Reduction in grants to Universities

*175. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been continuously reducing the grants made available to the Indian universities resulting in an adverse impact on their growth;

(b) whether the permission has been granted to the foreign universities to set up their base in the country making the situation difficult for the Indian universities;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to encourage the Indian universities to enable them to compete with the foreign universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Budgetary allocation by the Central Government to the Universities Grants Commission for providing development grants to eligible universities & colleges has been increasing over the years. Against an allocation of Rs.516.75 crores by way of development grants in 2003-2004, the allocation for the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 have been Rs.719.75 crores and Rs.785.40 crores respectively. While the Central Government has not taken a final view in regard to the entry of Foreign Education Providers, the Government intends to put a regulatory framework for such providers at the earliest. A major thrust is being given to improve the quality of education and research in universities.

Productivity of Education System

*176. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Head of National Knowledge Commission that only 6 per cent students garner gains from the current education system and around 80 per cent higher education curriculum went on unproductive for students;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government

for making education system more competitive and productive by taking co-operation of the scientists and research experts in the various fields?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Chairperson, National Knowledge Commission, has, on certain occasions, only commented that Gross Enrolement Ratio in higher education is around 6%, thus implying that a large majority of our young people do not have access to higher education. He has also commented that our education system needs to be adapted to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and that the Commission will, in due course, recommend strategies for dealing with these challenges.

(b) Gross Enrolement Ratio for age group 18-24 years in the year 2002-03 was around 9%. Government agrees that this needs to be substantially increased and that higher education needs to be made more relevant with respect to the current and emerging context.

(c) Scientists and experts are invaribaly associated in various statutory, advisory and other bodies engaged in designing educational reforms.

Drainage system in Delhi

*177. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drainage system in Delhi is poorly maintained and inadequate to meet sudden spurt of monsoon; and

(b) if so, whether sewage effluents are flowing in 90 per cent storm water drains, supposed to carry only storm water?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The drainage system for carrying rain water run off in Delhi is maintained by the local bodies namely, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) while peripheral major drains, into which the city drains out fall, are maintained by Irrigation and Flood Department of Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The MCD has reported that it maintains 1204 storm water drains and carries out desilting operations before the onset of monsoon to avoid flooding during monsoon period. NDMC has informed that the drainage system is not being poorly maintained, but it is designed for 1/2 inch run off only. Irrigation and Flood Control Department has informed that drains under its jurisdiction have been properly maintained and have not posed any drainage problem during